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FOOD PRICE CHANGES--U. S. AND FOREIGN

Although retail food and average consumer prices in the United States have risen gradually since 1958, the rates of increase have been much less than those in most other countries. Between 1958 and 1965, retail food prices in the United States increased 7 percent, slightly less than the increase for the entire Consumer Price Index which rose by 9 percent (table 5)1/.

The increase in food prices in the United States contrasted sharply with price increases in Argentina and Brazil, two countries that experienced hyperinflation. Since 1958, food price increases in Argentina (up 700 percent) and Brazil (up 2,000 percent) outpaced the rise in their CPI's and were far above those reported by any other country. Other countries which experienced substantial food price increases included Yugoslavia, Spain, China-Taiwan, Japan, India, Philippines, Finland, and Sweden.

Countries with only slightly more of an increase in their food prices than the United States since 1958 included Honduras, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Canada, and France. At least three countries--Ceylon, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia--reported a slower rise in food prices than the United States. Over the 1958-65 period, food prices increased only 1 percent in Ceylon and 3 percent in Hungary; Czechoslovakia reported a 2-percent drop between 1958 and 1964.

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1/ Food prices are a major component of the CPI. Average expenditures for food take a smaller share of total private consumption expenditures in the United States than in any other major country of the world for which data are available. Therefore, food is given less weight in the CPI in the United States (23 percent) than in other countries. See "Food Around the World," National Food Situation, NFS-115, February 1966, table 13.

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Reprinted from the National Food Situation, NFS-117, August 1966, by the Economic and Statistical Analysis Division, Economic Research Service.

Table 5.--Retail food price indexes, selected countries, 1959-65, and Consumer Price Index 1965 1/

(1958=100)

Region and country	Food price index								Consumer price index, 1965
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965		
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965		
North America									
Canada	99	100	102	103	107	108	111	111	
United States	98	100	101	102	103	104	107	109	
South America									
Argentina (Buenos Aires)	233	286	313	402	494	627	802	771	
Brazil (São Paulo)	144	208	280	442	736	1,445	2,169	2,048	
Dominican Republic (St. Domingo)	99	97	89	96	107	111	110	110	
Ecuador (Quito)	98	99	104	107	115	122	126	123	
Honduras (Tegucigalpa)	99	92	94	95	100	105	108	113	
Jamaica (Kingston)	103	105	112	112	112	114	118	123	
Mexico (Mexico City)	101	105	106	107	107	109	114	118	2/118
Panama (Panama City)	99	100	101	101	3/101	3/106	3/106	3/103	
Peru (Lima and Callao)	116	129	4/108	4/114	4/123	4/138	4/164	4/156	
Trinidad and Tobago	103	105	106	110	113	113	116	116	
Puerto Rico	103	107	111	113	117	120	124	117	
Venezuela (Caracas)	100	102	102	99	102	104	108	109	
Western Europe									
Austria	100	102	104	111	115	119	127	125	
Belgium	101	101	102	104	106	111	117	2/115	
Denmark	104	105	108	117	124	127	137	2/134	
Finland	101	105	107	112	117	132	140	135	
France 5/	103	106	110	117	105	109	111	111	
Greece 6/	100	102	104	103	109	110	115	110	
Ireland	100	98	102	104	105	112	119	123	
Italy 7/	98	99	99	103	112	117	124	129	
Netherlands	101	103	104	109	115	122	129	126	
Norway	103	101	104	111	113	123	127	125	
Portugal (Lisbon)	102	105	104	106	109	116	120	118	
Spain	107	108	110	119	131	137	159	155	
Sweden	101	107	110	120	126	131	139	125	
Switzerland	98	99	100	106	110	112	---	---	
United Kingdom	101	100	102	3/100	3/102	3/105	3/109	3/121	
West Germany	8/102	102	104	108	111	114	119	118	
Eastern Europe									
Czechoslovakia	98	96	96	98	98	98	---	---	
Hungary (Budapest)	97	99	100	102	100	100	103	102	
Poland	103	107	108	113	112	113	116	110	
Yugoslavia	101	108	119	137	150	173	241	211	
Africa									
Ghana (Accra)	103	102	109	119	124	144	---	---	
Morocco (Casablanca)	100	106	108	114	121	128	133	129	
South Africa 9/	100	102	104	103	105	109	116	114	
Tunisia (Tunis)	97	94	98	3/100	3/102	3/107	3/115	3/114	
United Arab Republic (Cairo)	101	102	103	103	105	111	139	118	
Asia									
Ceylon (Colombo)	99	95	94	95	97	101	101	107	
China (Taiwan)	112	138	143	139	142	146	149	147	
India	105	106	106	110	114	131	145	2/143	
Israel	101	103	110	117	122	124	135	146	
Japan	101	104	111	120	131	134	148	142	
Oceania									
Australia	103	109	112	109	109	113	120	116	
New Zealand	101	102	103	104	106	112	115	119	
Philippines (Manila)	96	102	105	113	124	140	140	133	

1/ Compiled from *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, May 1966, Statistical Office of the United Nations. 2/ Excluding rent. 3/ 1962=100. 4/ 1960=100. Food index includes fuel for 1959 and 1960. 5/ Paris only 1959-62; all France thereafter, 1962=100. 6/ 1959=100. 7/ Food price includes tobacco. 8/ Excluding Saar. 9/ White population.



